

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Grimes, et al.
 Serial No. : N/A
 Filed : N/A
 For : SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR THE
 MODIFICATION AND PURIFICATION
 OF PROTEINS
 Examiner : N/A
 Group Art Unit : N/A

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 D.C. 20231

Michael Ramos

Name

Michael Ramos March 15, 2002

Signature

Date

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Preliminary Amendment

Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment pertaining to a divisional application of the
 copending nonprovisional application under 35 U.S.C. § 121, 37 CFR §§ 1.53 (b) and § 1.78 (a)

for which the issue fee has been paid, and for which the Issue Notification has been received indicating issue of Patent No. 6,359,114 on March 19, 2002.

Please enter the following amendment:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert below the title in the first sentence of the top paragraph of page 1 of the Specification the following cross-reference:

--This application is a divisional application of the copending patent application Serial No. 08/484,740.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel original claims 2, and 7-14 without prejudice.

Please replace original claim 1 with the following amended version:

1. (Amended) A closed system for the continuous liquid phase modification and/or conjugation of proteins, purification and concentration thereof which comprises:
 - an ultrafiltration/concentration means;
 - a reaction vessel being fluidly connected to said ultrafiltration/concentration means;
 - a backwash reservoir being fluidly connected to said ultrafiltration/concentration means; and
 - a pump being fluidly interconnected between said ultrafiltration/concentration means and said reaction vessel.

REMARKS

This application submitted for consideration is a divisional of a copending application, S/N 08/484,740.

A cross-reference to prior filed copending patent application was entered by above amendment under Rule 78(a)(2).

Said prior copending patent application has been allowed, and the issue fee having been paid will issue as Patent No. 6,359,114.

The prior application ('740) was subject to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 (Paper 6). Accordingly, original method claims 7-14 (Group II) were elected by Applicant for prosecution, while non-elected apparatus claims 1-6 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner.

The previously non-selected Group I claims 1-6 (apparatus) as amended are now submitted for examination.

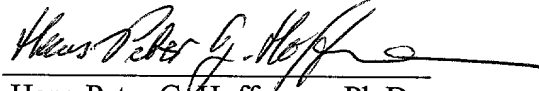
The present amendment cancels original claims 7-14, without prejudice. Further, pursuant to the present amendment, original claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice. Original claim 1 to a closed system has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of cancelled claim 2. Attached hereto is a page containing the marked-up version of the amended claim 1.

Applicant believes the application in condition for allowance and solicits such action.

No fee is due with this amendment. But the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be due in connection with this matter to Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 15, 2002



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A Marked-Up Version of Amended Claim 1

1. (Amended) A closed system for the continuous liquid phase modification and/or conjugation of proteins, purification and concentration thereof which comprises:

an ultrafiltration/concentration means;

a reaction vessel being fluidly connected to said ultrafiltration/concentration means;

a backwash reservoir being fluidly connected to said ultrafiltration/concentration means;

and

a pump being fluidly inter-connected between said ultrafiltration/concentration means

and said reaction vessel.

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